

REMARKS

Independent Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to require the appendage body be both flaccid, elongate, and movable relative to the mobile apparatus. Basis is found in the specification (4:12-18) and Figs. 1A-1C. No new matter is added. Claims 3 and 12 are canceled accordingly. Claim 1 is further amended for clarity, to eliminate references to the first and second surfaces.

The specification (5:6-11) is objected to for showing rigid stems under reference numerals 15 and 25. Appropriate correction has been made to refer to the stem as reference numeral 15. Sheet holder has been designated under reference numerals 30, 32 and 34. Appropriate correction has been made throughout the specification to only use reference numeral 34 for the sheet holder.

The drawings are objected to as not including reference numeral 19. Appropriate correction has been made to the specification at 6:13. The reference numeral 19 has been replaced with reference numeral 16 to conform to the reservoir illustrated in Fig. 4.

The drawings are objected to as not showing reference numerals 12, 16, 22, 60 and 100. The issue involving reference numeral 16 is believed to be cured as described above. Reference numerals 12, 22, 60 and 100 have been deleted from Fig. 1. Accordingly, this matter is believed to be cured.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) as the reference numeral 10 has allegedly been used to designate appendages of different embodiments. Applicants respectfully note that 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) stipulates that the same reference character can "never be used to designate different parts." In this case, the reference numeral 10, as noted by the Office Action, denotes an appendage. The appendage may have different forms, executions and embodiments – but, in any case, is still an appendage. Reference numeral 10 does not "designate different *parts*" (emphasis supplied) as indicated by the Office Action and proscribed by 37 CFR 1.84. Applicants respectfully submit the use of the reference character 10 is correct and complies with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4). Applicants respectfully request this objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

? { The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing the telescoping body of Claim 14. The requirements of 37 CFR 1.83 are controlled by 37 CFR 1.81. Specifically, 37 CFR 1.81(a) requires a drawing "where necessary for the understanding of the subject matter sought to be patented." In this case, Applicants respectfully submit one of even *less than* ordinary skill would understand a telescoping body. Accordingly, a drawing thereof is not necessary or

required under 37 CFR 1.81-83. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this objection.

Claims 10 and 12 are objected to for improper dependency. Appropriate correction has been made to Claim 10. Claim 12 is canceled. The dependency of Claim 15 is amended accordingly.

Claims 4, 7 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as indefinite. Claims 4 and 13 are rejected for reciting the limitation of "the robot." Appropriate correction has been made. Claim 5 is likewise amended for consistency. Claim 7 recites the limitation that the body has a height less than 15.5 cm. The Examiner's position is well taken. Claim 7 has been amended accordingly.

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Guha (5,555,587). Guha teaches a floor mopping machine having pivoting arms 16 with foam pieces 17 attached to the outer ends of the arms 16. As stated in the Office Action (p. 5), pivotal rotation of the arm 16 and foam piece 17 occurs up and down (i.e., in the vertical plane). In contrast, amended Claim 1, and the claims which depend therefrom, requires an appendage movable in the horizontal plane. By moving in the horizontal plane, the appendage has the advantage over Guha that it can move under appliances and counters having low overhangs and sweep the hard to reach areas of the floor as described in the instant specification (1:16-19). Accordingly, such claims are neither anticipated by nor obvious over Guha.

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Gurstein et al. (5,870,971). Gurstein et al. teaches a floor polishing machine having a round pad 6 for full contact with the floor (7:1-5). The round pad 6 preferably has a diameter of 20 inches or more (6:66-67). By definition, a round pad has an aspect ratio of 1. The round pad 6 is not elongate, as required by amended Claim 1. Nor does a round object have an aspect ratio of at least 4 as required by Claim 8. A round pad 6 is disadvantageous, because it cannot reach into all of the corners and other small places accessible to the elongate body of Claim 1. Accordingly, Gurstein et al. does not anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention.

Claims 1, 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Nakamura et al. (5,720,077). Nakamura et al. teaches a robot having a vacuum nozzle 37. The vacuum nozzle 37 is not flaccid, as required by amended Claim 2 and, therefore, cannot conveniently reach all the places the body of the claimed appendage can reach. Nakamura et al. does not anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention.

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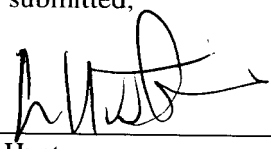
Claims 9-12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Gallo (3,981,106). Gallo teaches a scrubber-sander having a scrubbing head 74 covered by scouring material 78. As noted above relative to Gurstein et al., the scrubbing head is round and not elongate as required by amended Claim 1. For the reasons advanced above relative to Gurstein, Gallo does not teach or render obvious the claimed invention.

Claims 9-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Petner (5,915,437). Petner teaches a dust mop having a mop head 3. Mop bonnet 6 is attached to the head 3 through support pad 5. Petner not only fails to teach a flaccid appendage as required by amended Claim 1, Petner even fails to teach an appendage movable relative to a mobile apparatus. Petner does not anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention.

All matters raised by the Office Action are believed to be addressed by the amendments and arguments made hereunder. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and allow all claims remaining in the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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